

5 **A PROCESS FOR PREPARING AN OLEFIN OXIDE, A METHOD OF
 USING THE OLEFIN OXIDE AND A CATALYST COMPOSITION**

10 **ABSTRACT**

 The present invention provides a process for
preparing an olefin oxide by reacting an olefin having at
least three carbon atoms with oxygen in the presence of a
catalyst composition containing silver and an alkali
15 metal promoter deposited on a carrier, which alkali metal
promoter contains potassium in a quantity of at least
5 μ mole/g, relative to the weight of the catalyst
composition, and a selectivity and work rate enhancing
amount of an alkali metal selected from the group
20 consisting of lithium and sodium and mixtures thereof.
The invention also relates to a method for making a 1,2-
diol or a 1,2-diol ether using the olefin oxide so
prepared. Additionally, the invention relates to a
catalyst composition comprising silver and a promoter
25 deposited on a carrier.